

Office Update

January 4, 2006

2006 has started with a flurry of activity for the EMS staff. Fall classes are scheduled for their finals and the start of spring classes has begun this week. Twelve EMT-Basic classes and four EMT-Intermediate classes will be conducted around the state. Further information on the classes may be found on the EMS website.

The new EMS registry system is in place and the usual "bugs" are appearing. Several enhancements to individual certification cards and the business licenses has resulted in delays in issuing the cards and licenses however those who have sent in their recertification materials and business license renewals will be receiving them in the next week or so. If individuals or services have questions as to whether their certification or business licenses are current all they need to do is to contact the EMS Office.

The EMS Office will be sending out applications for this year's EMS System Enhancement Awards later this month. The Office of Rural Health has received notification of renewal of the Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant which provides the funds for these awards. Further information will be sent with each application. This grant has also provided funds to pay for the annual site licenses for each hospital's trauma registry.

The vacant position of Trauma Coordinator has been reclassified and the salary for the position will be increased in hopes of obtaining more qualified applicants. The position announcement will be posted on the EMS and the state websites as they become available. For further information contact Jim Mayberry at the EMS Office. Matt Hedger, the EMS/Trauma Records Analyst has resigned and taken a position as a pilot with Lifelight out of Phoenix, Arizona. The EMS staff wish Matt the best of luck as he moves to Arizona. The revisions to the Trauma Rules have been adopted and are out for public comment. The revisions update definitions and address the uncompensated trauma care reimbursement legislation that was passed in 2005.

Planning for the Annual Trauma Conference continues. The EMS Office will be offering a limited number of "scholarships" as well as an early bird registration discount. The conference will be held at the Little America Hotel and Resort in Cheyenne on August 24th through 27th. Further information will be forthcoming from the EMS Office and will be posted on the EMS website.

EMS Week will be May 14th through 20. The theme for this year is: "EMS – Serving on Health Care's Front Line." The EMS Office has ordered the EMS week kits and will be distributing them to each ambulance service. It is anticipated that the kits will be shipped to the EMS Office during February.

Preliminary data from the Advanced Skill reports for 2005 indicate that the field to hospital save rate for those patients defibrillated in the field is approximately 10%. Final results on the advanced skills reports for 2005 will be provided to ambulance services and the two EMS advisory groups shortly. Additionally, the preliminary results from the first year Paramedic skills usage indicates areas of clusters of meds and skills being utilized. These results will be made available by the end of January.

Recent developments at the federal level will impact the EMS Office activities in several areas. The federal trauma grant program has been eliminated effective with the end of this years grant cycle. This will mean a loss of \$40,000 to the Trauma Program. The Rural Access to Emergency Devices Grant more commonly known the AED grant has been drastically reduced where it is highly unlikely the EMS Office will be able to obtain another cycle of grant funding to obtain AEDs for placement in communities. This grant will end August 31st of this year. While several programs within the Office of Rural Health will experience some reductions in funding, the grants that have an EMS component received level funding and will continue.

Several ambulance services experienced changes in their administrators or physician medical directors in 2005.

New Ambulance Service Administrator/Director:

- Katie Krieger – Sublette County EMS – Big Piney
- Russ Dalgarn – Wyoming Medical Center – Casper
- Sam Peterson – AMR – Cheyenne
- Jay Johnson – Converse County Ambulance – Douglas
- Terry Camp – Evansville Ambulance Service
- Jason Perry – Hulett EMS
- David Keele – North Big Horn Hospital EMS – Lovell
- Mike Smith – Lusk/Niobrara Ambulance Service
- Partick Malson – Midwest/Edgerton EMS
- Chief Patrick Reitz – Sheridan Fire/Rescue
- Gard Ferguson – Ten Sleep Ambulance Service

New Medical Directors:

- G. Douglas Schmitz, MD – Sublette County EMS – Big Piney and Pinedale
- Don Cantway, MD – Centennial Valley Volunteer FD/EMS
- Tom Hoskins, MD – Converse County Ambulance Service – Douglas
- Chris Moser, MD – Castle Rock Ambulance Service – Green River
- G. Douglas Schmitz, MD – temporary – Ten Sleep Ambulance Service
- Michael Grant, MD – Vase EMS – Rock Springs